

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS
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MEMORANDUM FOR MRL. MGEORGE BUNDY
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Chronology of Preparation of United States Reply
to Soviet Aide-Memoire of June 4

With reference to our recent telephone conversation, I
am sending you the enclosed chronology of the preparaton of
the United States reply to the Soviet aide-memoire on
Germany and Berlin received on June 4, 1961 in Vienna.

L. D. Battle
Executive Secretary

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7/14/61

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ROBERTS
THE WHITE HOUSE

**Subject: Chronology of Preparation of United States Reply
to Soviet Aide-Memoire of June 4**

With reference to our recent telephone conversation, I am
sending you the enclosed chronology of the preparation of the
United States reply to the Soviet aide-memoire on Germany and
Berlin received on June 4, 1961 in Vienna.

1st LDB

L. B. Ruttle
Executive Secretary

Enclosure:

Chronology.

S/S-RO
1961

A true copy, or signed original

MR. ROBERTS: P. Cash, Jr: cm
7-13-61

MR - Mr. Tyler

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MB

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REVIEWED by *AFH* DATE *7.12/21/90*
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CHRONOLOGY OF PREPARATION OF US REPLY TO SOVIET AIDE-MEMOIRE
OF JUNE 4

This chronology of the preparation of the US reply to the Soviet aide-memoire on Germany and Berlin received on June 4, 1961 in Vienna has been reconstructed as accurately as possible on the basis of existing records and the recollections of the Departmental officers concerned and reflects the main steps in the development of the reply.

It should be noted that under the best conditions Western response to Soviet communications-involving, in addition to internal US procedures, the long and laborious process of full consultation with the British, French, and Germans and increasingly close consultation with the other eleven NATO allies-is a time-consuming process. By way of comparison, the Soviet note of November 27, 1958, which started the current crisis, was answered on December 31, 1958. The Soviet note of November 11, 1959 on the Berlin radio station was answered December 15, 1959. The one of July 28, 1960 on the same subject was answered on September 8, 1960. The Soviet note of May 16, 1960 on Berlin legislation was answered on September 8, 1960.

June 4 - Aide-memoire received in Vienna.

June 5 - Aide-memoires given all NATO members and received in Department. Department prepared a detailed comparison with the dozen most recent Soviet communications on this subject to see if there were any differences.

June 6 - Department prepared detailed study of proposal to submit legal issues to International Court of Justice.

June 7 - Department prepared a draft reply in the form of a detailed point-by-point refutation. Although rearranged, added to, and subtracted from, this draft remained the basis for the reply throughout the entire exercise.

June 8 - Department prepared revised draft, as instructed, to include reference legal issues to International Court and transmitted it to White House in time to make the President's plans to Palm Beach with request for agreement in principle to provide basis for further discussion within US Government and with our allies.

June 9 - Department informed French of anticipated schedule of consultation.

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British submitted publicity themes, which were
studied, endorsed, and sent to NATO for
consultation and to US information media for use.

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CHRONOLOGY OF PREPARATION OF US REPLY TO SOVIET AIDE-MEMOIRE

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This chronology of the preparation of the US reply to the Soviet aide-memoire on Germany and Berlin received on June 4, 1946 in Vienna has been reconstructed as accurately as possible on the basis of existing records and the recollections of the Departmental officers concerned and reflects the main steps in the development of the reply.

It should be noted that under the best conditions Western response to Soviet communications—involving, in addition to internal US procedures, the long and laborious process of full consultation with the British, French, and Germans and increasingly close consultation with the other eleven NATO allies—is a time-consuming process. By way of comparison, the Soviet note of November 27, 1938, which started the current crisis, was answered on December 11, 1938. The Soviet note of November 11, 1939 on the Berlin radio station was answered December 15, 1939. The one of July 28, 1940 on the same subject was answered on September 8, 1940. The Soviet note of May 14, 1940 on Berlin legislation was answered on September 8, 1940.

- June 4** - Aide-memoire received in Vienna.
- June 5** - Aide-memoire given all NATO members and received in Department. Department prepared a detailed comparison with the dozen most recent Soviet communications on this subject to see if there were any differences.
- June 6** - Department prepared detailed study of proposal to submit legal issues to International Court of Justice.
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- June 9** - Department informed French of anticipated schedule of consultation.

British submitted publicity themes, which were studied, endorsed, and sent to NATO for consultation, and to US information staff for use.

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- June 12 - Informed USRO Paris they could inform NATO consultation there contemplated as soon as possible after quadripartite consultation completed.
- June 13 - French and British respond discussion of German draft reply to Soviet aide-memoire of February 17 in light of current exercise. Received initial German views.
- June 14 - Department prepared revised draft with two alternative endings: 1) reference to Court; and 2) all-Berlin solution. USRO informed NATO as directed. NATO stressed necessity more than couple of days to study.
- June 15 - Gave US draft reply to Deputy Under Secretary Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh, who, in turn, presented detailed British suggestions for reply.
- June 16 - Draft given US members Interdepartmental Coordinating Group on Berlin Contingency Planning, Germans, and French and discussed with French Foreign Office official Jean Laloy and Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh.
- June 17 - Four Power Working Group discussed draft. Received detailed German comments. Publicity themes quadripartitely approved.
- June 19 - Comments received from White House.
- June 20 - Department prepared new version of reply with ICJ proposal.
- June 22 - Department discussed draft with Ambassador Thompson and incorporated certain of his suggestions.
- June 26 - Meeting Four Power Working Group received new US draft and completed substantive consideration German reply. Considered timing. French proposed three (US, UK, French) substantially identical replies to Soviets. This agreed and Court proposal excluded as had all-Berlin proposal been earlier due to French, German, British objections. All suggested various changes in language and substance. New draft prepared and distributed.
- June 28 - French submitted text their proposed reply and translation was made. At Four Power Working Group

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meeting they suggested their reply be used with ours to be annex. Department prepared detailed point-by-point comparison US and French drafts.

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- 2 -

- June 12** - Informed NSC staff that NSC consultation there completed: as soon as possible after quadripartite consultation completed.
- June 13** - French and British reopened discussion of German draft reply to Soviet aide-memoire of February 17 in light of current exercise. Received initial German views.
- June 14** - Department prepared revised draft with two alternative endings: 1) reference to Court; and 2) all-Berlin solution. NSC informed NSC as directed. NSC stressed necessity more than couple of days to study.
- June 15** - Gave US draft reply to Deputy Under Secretary Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh, who, in turn, presented detailed British suggestions for reply.
- June 16** - Draft given NS members Interdepartmental Coordinating Group on Berlin Contingency Planning, German, and French and discussed with French Foreign Office official Jean Laley and Sir Evelyn Shuckburgh.
- June 17** - Four Power Working Group discussed draft. Received detailed German comments. Publicity theme quadrilaterally approved.
- June 18** - Comments received from White House.
- June 20** - Department prepared new version of reply with ICF proposal.
- June 21** - Department discussed draft with Ambassador Thompson and incorporated certain of his suggestions.
- June 24** - Meeting Four Power Working Group received new US draft and completed substantive consideration German reply. Considered timing. French proposed three (US, UK, French) substantially identical replies to Soviets. This agreed and Court proposal outlined as had all-Berlin proposal been earlier due to French, German, British objections. All suggested various changes in language and substance. New draft prepared and distributed.
- June 25** - French submitted text their proposed reply and translation was made. At Four Power Working Group meeting they suggested their reply be used with ours to be annex. Department prepared detailed point-by-point comparison US and French drafts.

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June 29 - Four Power Working Group meeting proposed various changes. New version issued.

NATO informed re progress and consultation plans. NATO again stressed necessity ample time for study.

June 30 - Four Power Working Group agreed to send three communications with identical "operative" language. UK and US proposed US reply proceeds UK and French. Various changes suggested. Tentative delivery schedule approved German reply July 6, US July 10, British and French July 12. Germans asked to be mentioned in first paragraph.

Department prepared new version of draft and transmitted to White House for sending on President's plane to Hyannis Port.

July 2 - New version on US draft prepared incorporating White House suggestions.

July 3 - Materials received from Hyannis Port containing major revisions in draft.

July 4 - Presidential statement and new draft reply prepared to take account of materials from Hyannis Port.

July 5 - Report made to NATO. NATO again asked for sufficient time for consultations.

Secretary met with UK, French, German Ambassadors to discuss new version with changes suggested by White House. French requested delivery of three replies same day. Germans were asked to delay delivery their reply until July 10. German inclusion discussed. Germans and British proposed various changes. British submitted their draft. Presidential statement circulated.

July 6 - Department circulated text President statement to Embassy Moscow-later to Bonn, London, Paris, and Berlin.

Department gave British and French version of summation paragraph.

New French draft translated and reproduced for circulation.

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- 3 -

June 27 - Four State Working Group meeting proposed various changes. New version issued.

NATO informed re progress and consultation plans. NATO again stressed necessity ample time for study.

June 30 - Four Power Working Group agreed to send three communications with identical "operative" language. UK and US proposed US reply precede UK and French. Various changes suggested. Tentative delivery schedule approved German reply July 6, US July 10, British and French July 12. Germans asked to be mentioned in first paragraph.

Department prepared new version of draft and transmitted to White House for sending on President's plane to Rumsig Fort.

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July 4 - Presidential statement and new draft reply prepared to take account of materials from Rumsig Fort.

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July 6 - Department circulated text President statement to Embassy Moscow--later to Bonn, London, Paris, and Berlin.

Department gave British and French version of summation paragraph.

New French draft translated and reproduced for circulation.

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TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

- 4 -

July 7 - British draft reproduced for circulation.

New US text reproduced and circulated
incorporating further White House changes.

Presidential statement reproduced and circulated.

Four Power Working Group Meeting under Secretary's
chairmanship. New changes of language agreed and
draft readied for circulation in NATO. British
and French texts also discussed. New US draft
reproduced for distribution. Text of new version
sent to Paris.

July 7 to present - NATO consultation.

(The foregoing does not attempt to list every new draft
prepared along the way to include suggested changes as
received from within the Department or from the Allies.)

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- 4 -

July 7 - British draft reproduced for circulation.

New US text reproduced and circulated incorporating further White House changes.

Presidential statement reproduced and circulated.

Four Power Working Group Meeting under Secretary's chairmanship. New changes of language agreed and draft readied for circulation in NATO. British and French texts also discussed. New US draft reproduced for distribution. Text of new version sent to Paris.

July 7 to present - NATO consultation.

(The foregoing does not attempt to list every new draft prepared along the way to include suggested changes as received from within the Department or from the Allies.)

EUR:GER:FECash, Jr:RWHillenbrand:caw

July 13, 1961.

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July 11, 1961

S/S-RO

Mr. Bundy called me this afternoon and most apologetically asked my assistance in getting prepared for the President in the next two days a paper summarizing the chronology of the preparation of the Aide Memoire on Berlin. He said that he was most reluctant to ask this and he hoped that there was some way to prepare this without calling upon Hillenbrand and the group which is working at present under great pressure. I said that I thought RO could do it and would only have to check for accuracy with CER. He said he would be most grateful if we could give him a report on the matter on the basis outlined above.

I told him that I had just heard that Mr. de Gaulle had raised objections to one part of the draft and that the full chronology probably could not yet be written but that I would embark on it up to the present moment.

L. D. Battle

MM-

Suggest you have Mr. L. D. Battle
Unfortunatly this has been written
RO and CER will be R. A. L. to be L.

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